

Senator Jeff Merkley

Senator Ron Wyden

Representative Suzanne Bonamici

Gina McCarthy, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

Dennis McLerran, Region 10 Director, Environmental Protection Agency

Kristine Koch, Remedial PM, Office of Environmental Cleanup, Environmental Protection Agency

→ Laura Knudsen, Portland Office contact person, Region 10, Environmental Protection Agency

Davis Zhen, Seattle Office contact person, Region 10, Environmental Protection Agency

Governor Kate Brown, State of Oregon

Pete Shepherd, Interim Director, State of Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality

Oregon State Senator Betsy Johnson

Oregon State Representative Brad Witt

Jules Bailey, Multnomah County Commissioner, District 1

Deborah Kafoury, Multnomah Board of County Commissioners, Chair

2536

RECEIVED
OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

AUG 18 2016

EPA-REGION 10

August 16, 2016

Dear Sirs and Madams,

We are concerned about the quality of our drinking water. We are citizens using well-water in our homes, a school, for livestock and pets, and in businesses, stables, kennels, and agriculture. We are writing to ask that you work together to determine how we, the residents of Sauvie Island, can require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ascertain whether the quality of any Sauvie Island well-water has been adversely affected by the toxic contaminants now present in, and still seeping and being discharged into, the Portland Harbor SuperFund Site (PHSS) in the Willamette River.

We are concerned about the downriver effects of existing and continuing toxic contaminants from the PHSS. We ask that you work together to determine how we, the residents of Sauvie Island, can require the EPA to ascertain the presence and concentrations of toxic contaminants in the Multnomah Channel, which is immediately downstream from the SuperFund Site in the Willamette River. We have moorages with floating homes and live-aboard boats, and many people use the water in the Channel for swimming, fishing, water-skiing, and other recreational activities.

We want our concerns to be addressed before it is too late. Since it is unlikely that the EPA can address these issues before the deadline for testimony on their Proposed Plan on September 6, we further ask that you request the EPA to postpone its decision regarding the Portland Harbor SuperFund Proposed Plan until they have thoroughly investigated and planned any necessary remediation for the short-, medium-, and long-term (100+ years) effects downriver from the SuperFund site.

We are aware that the toxic contamination of the Willamette River is the result primarily of corporate activity, that the EPA's function is to assess the damage and propose remediation, and that this is the only opportunity for restoration of the river. We assumed that the EPA's 15 years' preparation of the Proposed Plan was being done with the primary goal of returning the river to its natural state. (This is important to us, as it is the only long-term method which will ameliorate the effects of the toxic contamination upriver from us.) However, when we reviewed the EPA's proposed plan to address the toxic contaminants at the PHSS and realized that it addresses only a small amount of the toxic material,

and only at the SuperFund site, we wondered what the effects of those toxic contaminants have been downriver and what would be done to remediate those effects and to stop continuing contamination. It wasn't until we started asking questions about the EPA's proposed solution to the toxic contamination upriver from our island that we learned that the preliminary information we asked for regarding downriver effects has never been conclusively researched (i.e., the well-water on the Island and the Multnomah Channel's water have never been tested for toxic contaminants, and we've been told that initial sediment samples were taken some years ago in the Channel, but since then no sediment testing has been done either). We were only recently alerted to the fact that the State of Oregon DEQ has not and does not check the Multnomah Channel for non-organic toxic contaminants. We only recently learned that the EPA's proposed SuperFund solution leaves most of the now-present toxic contaminants in place, and that they intend to put the material they do dredge up into a toxic waste location that is still within the river, in a flood plain, and on an earthquake fault. This makes the present and continuing toxic contamination of the sediment and water both within the SuperFund site and downriver from the site of great concern to us.

We have not been paying close enough attention to the operations of the EPA and other governmental agencies in solving the problem of toxic contaminants upriver from us, but now find ourselves united in asking you, our elected officials and government employees, to work quickly on our behalf, before the EPA makes a decision that could have very adverse effects—all of which are unknown at this point, as no data has been gathered—on our island home.

We thank the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group (PHCAG) for informing and galvanizing us. For more information regarding the specifics of the EPA's Portland Harbor Superfund proposed plan and our community's response to it, contact Jim Robison, Chair, PHCAG.

Sincerely,

(b) (6) President, and members, Sauvie Island Grange

(b) (6) (b) (6) & (b) (6) Co-President, and members, Sauvie Island Women's Grange

(b) (6) President, and members, Sauvie Island Community Association

(b) (6) Manager, and (b) (6) Chair, and the Board, Sauvie Island Drainage Improvement Company

cc: Jim Robison, Chair, Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group
971.303.9742; chair@portlandharborcag.info

Sauvie Island Grange: 14443 NW Charlton Road, Portland OR 97231; pamelavetsch@gmail.com

Sauvie Island Women's Grange: 14443 NW Charlton Road, Portland OR 97231; lacengh@gmail.com

Sauvie Island Community Association: PO Box 8354, Portland OR 97233;
communityassociation@sauvieisland.org

Sauvie Island Drainage Improvement Company: 29264 NW Sauvie Island Rd., Portland OR 97231;
tim@sidrainage.org

17827 NW Savvie Is. Rd.
Portland OR
97231

PORTLAND OR 970

16 AUG 2016 PM 5 L



Ms. Laura Knudsen
Portland Office, EPA
805 SW Broadway, Ste. 500
Portland OR

97205

97205-333125